



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

980 Ninth Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724

January 6, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

Document # 41064

Mr. Jeff Morales, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500
For Kris Balaji, Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Morales:

SUBJECT: FY 2002/03 FSTIP Amendment No. 3 – Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)

We have completed our review of Amendment No. 3 to the Local Highway Element of the MCTC's 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated November 12, 2002. MCTC adopted this amendment with Resolution No. 02-06, Amendment No. 3, on September 18, 2002, approving these program modifications and reaffirming the conformity of the MCTC FTIP with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality.

This amendment was requested by MCTC as follows:

- Adds a State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) project for the City of Madera. The amendment programs a total of \$2,353,000 in state and local funds for – Cleveland Avenue Project (MPO ID: MAD217004) to reconstruct and widen an existing two-lane street to provide a raised median, bike lane, sidewalks and to install two traffic signals.

The California Department of Transportation notes that project programming is not within the triennial element of the current Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (FSTIP), and recommends that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) accept this amendment for information only. The City of Madera is seeking to add this project as it was previously programmed in the MCTC 2000 FTIP to the MCTC 2002 FTIP reflecting a project change in scope. The previous (2000 FTIP) project description constructed a four-lane street from the existing two-lane facility. The project as currently described, is consistent with MCTC's adopted 2001 Regional Transportation Plan.

We accept this amendment for information only in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 450. We do so based on our finding that this amendment adds a project to the MCTC FTIP that is not federally funded, and does not meet all conditions required for the definition of “regionally significant” as provided in 40 CFR, Section 93.101.

We also find that this amendment was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. section 134, and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. §1607). Based on our review, we find that changes made to the MCTC FTIP by this amendment are exempt from regional emissions analysis and conformity determination requirements.

We therefore find that the MCTC FTIP through Amendment No. 3 conforms to the applicable SIP in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 as well as the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) and FTA’s January 2, 2002, guidance *Revised Guidance for Implementing the March 1999 Circuit Court Decision Affecting Transportation Conformity* and the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) May 14, 1999, guidance *Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision*.

This finding has been coordinated with the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Region Nine office of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in accordance with the procedures outlined on the Memorandum of Understanding, dated March 8, 1996, on single mode FTIP amendments.

This letter also constitutes approval and inclusion (for information only) of MCTC’s FTIP Amendment No. 3 into California’s 2002/03 – 2004/05 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

Sincerely,



For
Gary N. Hamby
Division Administrator

c:

EPA Region IX, Karina O'Connor

FTA Region IX, Ray Sukys

MCTC FTIP Binder

MCTC, Patricia Taylor-Maley

MCTC, Liz Levine

COFCG, Mike Bitner

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